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60609C 181243Z /38

O 181230Z NOV 05
 FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1543
 INFO CIA WASHINGTON DC
 DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY WASHDC
 DIA WASHINGTON DC//ASD/ISA//
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
 USDOC WASHDC
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E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - Alleged CIA Prisons and
 Flights - General Elections in Israel

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

Alleged CIA Prisons and Flights
 General Elections in Israel

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

The opening of the Socialist Congress in Le Mans, marked by infighting within the party dominates a number of headlines and editorials. With the presidential elections only 18 months away, resolving the party's problems will be a crucial task agree most dailies.

The top international stories include one of today's leads in

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Le Figaro: "Secret CIA Prisons: Europe Concerned."
Liberation's front-page claims that the McCain amendment on torture has "America Divided." (See Part C)

Le Monde mentions the "Controversy in Europe on the CIA's Secret Flights." Dailies report that officials in Spain, Sweden, Norway and in the European Parliament either have opened formal inquiries or demanded answers from US officials about CIA flights. Le Figaro's article asks: "the question today is to know if the global war on terrorism has turned into a 'dirty' war."

Le Figaro reports Israeli Prime Minister Sharon and new Labor Party Leader Peretz's decision to hold elections that could take place as early as the end of February. (See Part C)

The terror suspect who allegedly financed the attacks in Paris in 1995, Rachid Ramda, is on the verge of being extradited to France. Paris has been asking London for his extradition for the past ten years. "Better late than never" claims France Soir. Le Monde reports that another person suspected of having taken part in the 2004 attacks in Madrid and held in London is also due to be extradited to Spain. The daily suggests that: "these two events could mark a change on the part of London that has consistently refused to cooperate with other European countries in the fight against terrorism."

Dailies mention that trade negotiations will be the central theme of the APEC Summit and regional editorials are critical of President Bush's tour of Asia. Jacques Guyon writes in regional La Charente Libre: "Apparently George Bush never tires of handing out good and bad grades to countries in terms of democracy. His arrogance, his pseudo-prophetic attitude towards democracy looks like a headlong rush when at home he is increasingly unpopular."

Le Figaro also reports President Bush's visit to South Korea: "In diplomatic terms, polite phrases between leaders are usually the bandage that hides the fracture. This was the case during the bilateral meeting yesterday when George W. Bush and his South Korean counterpart Roh Moo-hyun repeated that their alliance has never been stronger."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

Alleged CIA Prisons and Flights

"Brute Force"

The editorial in left-of-center Liberation by Patrick Sabatier (11/18): "The argument that all means necessary can be

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deployed to prevent the loss of innocent lives, including
disrespect for the law, parallel battlefields and the use of
torture. is false and dangerous. Torture cannot be authorized
and less still legalized. It took a former war hero. the ultra-
conservative John McCain to remind America that torturing a
prisoner is an odious crime. The fact that the CIA, with the
complicity of allied regimes, 'outsourced' the torture of
prisoners far from American soil adds hypocrisy and cowardice
to a political and moral blunder."

General Elections in Israel

"A Redistribution of the Cards in Israel"

Pierre Roussel in for right-of-center *Le Figaro* (11/18): "The
advent of Amir Peretz at the head of the Israeli Labor Party
has shaken up domestic politics in Israel and could have
repercussions on the peace process with the Palestinians.
Everything will depend on what happens on the Palestinian side
after the legislative elections in January. The American
Secretary of State gave a significant boost to Mahmoud Abbas
by forcing Ariel Sharon to sign an agreement concerning the
Gaza border. This agreement is important for three reasons. It
gives the Palestinians a degree of sovereignty. It provides
for the deployment of EU observers. and above all it signifies
an increased commitment on the part of American diplomacy to
the peace process."

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